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**Subject:** Hurricanes Irma and Maria Management Report October 6  
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[Irma Management Report 10-6 Final.pdf](#)  
[NRCC Senior Leadership Briefing for MARIA, IRMA, HARVEY and Tropical Storm NATE - 0500 ET 6 Oct 17 \(Phase 1 NOC 0664-17\) \(Awareness N.pdf\)](#)

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Attached and copied below, please find the HQ EOC Management Report for EPA's Response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The HQ EOC has been issuing this report daily. As response efforts wind down the issuance frequency will be amended as appropriate.

If you have any questions, please contact the EOC manager at 202-250-8903 or the Deputy EOC Manager 202-250-8904.

Thank you,

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**October 6, 2017 1700 EDT**

### **HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA MANAGEMENT REPORT**

*Information contained in this report reflects HQ and regional reporting from the most recently completed operational period as well as other reports provided by HQ, regional and interagency sources.*

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#### **National Incident Management Objectives**

Objective 1: Ensure that health and safety of the EPA responders is considered at all times.

Objective 2: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, aggressive and well-coordinated manner.

Objective 3: Ensure prompt Review and Processing of Fuel Waiver requests.

Objective 4: Prepare for and provide Rapid Assessment of Industrial facilities as requested by the State or under EPA's statutory program responsibilities for CERCLA Superfund, RMP and FRP facilities. Working with our state partners, contact industrial sources within the impacted area to determine their operational status and determine what support can be provided with the monitoring of the start-up of industrial sources.

Objective 5: Prepare for and provide Rapid Assessment & Technical Assistance Drinking Water & Wastewater facilities as requested by the State or local government. EPA will support our state partners in contacting drinking water and waste water systems.

Objective 6: Prepare a Sustained Response Plan that outlines the resource and equipment needs for a long duration response.

Objective 7: Activate the Agency's Crisis Communication Plan to ensure effective and efficient coordination of all incident communications.

Objective 8: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where national, state and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

Objective 9: Begin Agency internal and external coordination under the National Disaster Recovery Framework regarding Recovery Support Functions in which EPA is likely to be involved.

#### **Executive Summary**

##### **Region 2**

- **Show**er and thunderstorm chances will impact Puerto Rico (PR) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) through October 6<sup>th</sup>. These storms will cause some localized flooding, frequent lightning and gusty, erratic winds. Heat indices across the lower altitudes will exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit, which could lead to heat related illnesses for more vulnerable populations. Tropical Storm Nate, in the southwest Caribbean, is not expected to have any impact on PR or USVI.
- Immediate risk reduction measures are ongoing on October 6<sup>th</sup> to stabilize the Guajataca dam spillway and clear outlet blockage. 230,000 people rely on the dam for their source of drinking water. Reservoir pool rises may be possible at the Guajataca Dam given forecasted showers and thunderstorms.
- R2's Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (CEPD) Guaynabo office opened on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Nearly all personnel stationed in the Caribbean have been able to report to work, and all are expected to be able to report by October 10<sup>th</sup>.** Offices on Vieques and St. Thomas remain closed.
- Vice President Pence is traveling to PR and the USVI on October 6<sup>th</sup> and will be accompanied by PR Resident Commissioner Jennifer Gonzalez.

- Power remains out for over 90% of the residents of PR and USVI. Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) expects 15% of customers will have power restored by October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- In PR, according to Puerto Rico Aqueducts Sewer Authority (PRASA), 46% of the PRASA-served population are without access to drinking water (DW) service. PR has an island-wide boil-water order.
- The waste water (WW) treatment plants on all three USVI islands are operational but have limited pumping capacity due to lack of commercial power.
- On St. Croix, commercial flights began October 5<sup>th</sup>. On St. Thomas, the airport is open and receiving commercial flights.
- The Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function Coordinator asked EPA to do a full Environmental Justice analysis for all islands; data on DW and WW facilities connected with/to health care facilities, and a list of superfund/brownfield sites situated near health care facilities.
- PR Governor Rosselló agrees with Moody Analytics estimate that PR damages due to Hurricane Maria is approximately \$95 billion. A more conservative estimate from the disaster research group Enki Research put the total at \$30 billion.

#### Region 4

**The current schedule for management reports from R4 is Tuesday and Friday. The next update will be Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.**

- In anticipation of Tropical Storm Nate, the Mississippi State Emergency Operation Center has activated to Level 3 (partial activation). The FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center in Chamblee has activated to Level 2 (partial activation). An EPA liaison will staff the ESF-10 desk during daytime hours beginning at noon on Saturday.
- As of October 6<sup>th</sup>, the EPA Container Recovery Group has collected 198 items (e.g., drums, oil containers, and propane tanks). These items are being temporarily stored at the Florida Keys Marathon International Airport container staging area.
- As of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the USACE and the Region 4 Water Protection Division completed their ESF-3 water infrastructure assessment mission, with a total of 2,227 drinking water and wastewater facility assessments conducted. Field and remote assessment activities have been completed, and EPA has completed all ESF-3 assignments. Pending any changes in water sector activities, the REOC has suspended ESF-3 reporting in situation reports.
- Two new Mission Assignments began on October 4<sup>th</sup> to support oil and hazmat response as well as landfill technical support activities.
- A third Landfill Technical Specialist deployed to the Keys on October 5<sup>th</sup>. To date, the Landfill Specialty Team (LST) has assessed 21 Disaster Debris Management Sites (DDMSs) in the Keys.

#### Regional Mission Assignments and Funding

EPA Region	Mission Assignment Number	Funding Amount	Description of Assignment
Region 2	4339DR-PR-EPA-04	\$6,000,000	To deploy personnel to coordinate and execute all necessary assessments, evaluations, sampling and analysis services/support and other necessary actions associated with ensuring the safety and quality of DW and WW systems, in support of PRASA, Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDH).
	4339DR-PR-EPA-03*	\$10,000,000	Removal, cleanup and disposal of oil & hazmat; collect and dispose of HHW; monitor immediate threats to public H&S and the environment in PR.
	VI-17090102-EPA-01	(\$10,000)	Expired
	4335DR-VI-EPA-01	\$100,000	Activate EPA to FEMA R2 RRC in Colts Neck, NJ to support FEMA and FEMA NRCC.
	4335DR-VI-EPA-02	\$1,008,000	To perform assessment of oil and hazardous materials releases, contaminated debris and other environmental events in USVI.
	4335DR-VI-EPA-04	\$10,000,000	Conduct oil and hazardous materials field operations, including cleanup and disposal of hazardous materials and oil, and response to orphaned containers in order to mitigate actual and potential threats to public health and safety.
	4335DR-VI-EPA-06	\$2,000,000	EPA provides support preparing for site-specific platforms for situational awareness; environmental data management; operational deployment plans; documentation of assessment activities and results; resource and financial tracking, accountability and cost documentation.
	PR-17090102-EPA-01	(\$20,000)	Expired
	3384EM-PR-EPA-01	(\$75,000)	Expired
	4336DR-PR-EPA-01	(\$125,000)	Expires October 10 <sup>th</sup> but funds exhausted.
	4336DR-PR-EPA-02	\$1,008,000	To perform assessment and reconnaissance of oil and hazardous materials release, contaminated debris and storm impacted infrastructure which may pose a threat to federal responders as well as environmental harm in PR.
	4337DR-FL-EPA-05	\$90,000	Activation for appropriate EPA personnel to perform the functions of ESF-10 w/ RRCC, IOF, JFO, FEMA's Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT), Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Team, or other teams and locations, at the direction and coordination of FEMA.

Region 4	4337DR-FL-EPA-03	(\$525,000)	Expired
	4337DR-FL-EPA-04	(\$9,000,000)	Expired
	4337DR-FL-EPA-07	(\$675,000)	Expired
	4337DR-FL-EPA-08	\$10,000,000	Provide oil and hazardous material field response in support of FEMA response operations providing specialized expertise, conducting damage assessment of oil/hazmat waste impact evaluating hazards; and/or response, removal, or disposal of: actual and potential oil discharges, and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants and remove pollutants from vessels in or upon navigable waters and adjoining shorelines through November 30 <sup>th</sup> with a state cost share of 10%.
	4337DR-FL-EPA-09	\$675,000	Provide funding for EPA Landfill Specialty Teams through November 30 <sup>th</sup> with a state cost share of 10%.
	4337DR-FL-USGC-05	\$10,000,000	EPA will provide oil, hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants field response and recovery actions in support of FEMA response and recovery operations.
Total Active MA		\$50,881,000	

\*A signed mission assignment task order documenting the additional taskings requested by the PR Solid Waste Authority was received.

#### Number of Regional Personnel Involved in Response

Type	R2 Personnel	R4 Personnel	Total Regional Personnel
EPA	132	28	160
Contractors	41	14	55
Totals	174*	42	216

\*Includes one Coast Guard employee stationed in Edison, NJ

#### Force Laydown for USVI\* and PR (as reported by Region 2 on October 5<sup>th</sup>)

- R2 intends to enter resource orders into the WebEOC Personnel Resource Log for a mobilization of an additional 25 personnel on October 8<sup>th</sup> and an additional 110 personnel on or about October 15<sup>th</sup> for PR.

Type	Personnel USVI	Personnel PR	Total Deployment
EPA	19	45	64
Contractors	8	12	20
Totals	27	57	84

\*St. John is currently not accessible to EPA responders.

#### Region 2 Significant Activities

##### Superfund and Oil Sites

- R2 estimates that there are 1,700 active and temporarily closed underground storage tank (USTs) facilities in PR.
- There are 34 Superfund and oil sites (30 in PR and 4 in USVI). The Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) is contacting the RPMs for each site and working with Emergency and Remedial Response Division.

SUPERFUND SITES (NPL, Removal and Oil)						
Site	Type	Phase 1:	Phase 2		Phase 3	All Phases Completed
		Post-Storm Assessment	Site Inspection Needed	Inspected	Additional Response Action	
Arecibo Battery Recycling Co.	Removal & NPL*	09/22	No	-	No	09/22
Corozal Battery	Removal & NPL*	09/24	No	-	No	09/24
Puma Caribe (CAPECO)	Oil Response	09/21	No	-	No	09/25
Papelera Puertorriquena, Inc.	NPL	09/29	No	-	No	09/29
Juncos Landfill	NPL	09/30	Under review			

Upjohn Facility	NPL	09/30	Under review			
Scorpio Recycling Inc	NPL	10/05	Under review			
Vega Alta Public Supply Wells	NPL	09/30	Under review			
Krum Bay Oil Spill at WAPA Facility	Oil	10/01	No	-	No	10/01
Island Chemical Corp/Virgin Islands Chemical Corp	NPL	10/05	No	-	No	10/05
Tutu Wellfield	NPL	10/03	No	-	No	10/03

\* These are Sites that have both a Removal and Remedial program action. Only one assessment will be conducted per Site.

#### Regulated Facilities in USVI

- Virgin Island Asphalt Products facility was found to have sustained significant damage. Damage to some oil tanks was observed with discharges of product to secondary containment. The facility owner is addressing the issues with EPA oversight.
- In St. Croix, EPA inspected the medical waste storage area at the Juan Luis Hospital in Christiansted on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 50,000 pounds of waste requires packaging and disposal. EPA expects a work assignment will be added to an existing MA from either ESF-3 or ESF-8.
- An EPA meeting with the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital representative handling medical waste was reported on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Any request for EPA assistance with the handling and disposal of medical waste on St. Thomas will be coordinated through the EOC on St. Croix.

Facility Type	Field Assessments Completed On October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Field Assessments On October 4 <sup>th</sup> Requiring Follow-up Action	Total Field Assessments Completed to date
RMP	0	0	0
FRP	0	0	3
SPCC (non-FRP)	1	0	16
Total	1	0	19

#### Regulated Facilities in PR

- As reported on October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Regulated Facility Team (RFT) continues efforts to contact significant Risk Management Plan (RMP), Facility Response Plans (FRP), and Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulated facilities that have not yet responded to the post-storm assessment via email or by phone. Several significant RMP, FRP, and SPCC companies in PR and the USVI, such as Puma, PRASA, Total, and Water and Power Authority (WAPA) have preliminarily reported no damage to oil, chemical, or flammable operations.

Facility Type	Field Assessments Completed On October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Field Assessments On October 4 <sup>th</sup> Requiring Follow-up Action	Total Field Assessments Completed to date
RMP	4	1	4
FRP	3	1	5
SPCC (non-FRP)	3	0	3
Total	10	2	12

#### Drinking Water / Wastewater (DW/WW) Assessments in USVI

- EPA continues to coordinate with Virgin Islands Waste Management Authorities (VIWMA) to complete assessments of all WW facilities. Most facilities assessed to date either need a generator to power the facility or fuel for the facility. No further action has been requested of EPA at this time.
- DPNR plans to initiate a 3-month alternative drinking water monitoring procedure, and will re-evaluate the need to continue at the end of the 3-month period. The monitoring procedure will shift from compliance monitoring to surveillance monitoring, with focus on bacteria and chlorine. A boil water advisory remains in place across the USVI.
- EPA attended a Task Force meeting for the re-opening of public schools. Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDOE) has provided a list of schools on St. Croix and St. Thomas which have been given priority for potable well testing and assessment. EPA will continue coordinating efforts for drinking water sample collection at the schools with USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) and VIDOE.
- USVI is building additional water storage and working on restoring DW service:
  - St. Croix: There are three days of emergency water storage on St. Croix. WAPA is pumping at full capacity at both the Contentment and Concordia pump stations. Water service is ongoing at Frederiksted; however, the pressure remains low until more water can be pumped into the Kingshill storage tank. According to the DPNR, St. Croix is providing drinking water access to 93% of their metered locations as of October 4<sup>th</sup>.

- St. Thomas: There are four days of emergency water storage on St. Thomas. WAPA expects to resume potable water service to Savan, Contant Knolls and Lindbergh Bay this week. Areas of Altona, Bergs Home, Government Hill, Estate Thomas, Lindbergh Bay and Havensight have all had potable water service restored.
- St. John: There are four days of emergency water storage in St. John. Water service is available throughout the Cruz Bay area.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Assessments on USVI* (as of October 4 <sup>th</sup> )		
Assessment Types	Daily Assessments	Total Assessments
On-Site DW Assessments	29	116
On-Site WW Assessments	0	0

*\*On-site assessment of drinking water or wastewater facilities is a site visit to a facility to determine operating status and overall needs (i.e.; power, treatment chemicals, fuel for generators).*

#### St. Croix

- On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11 drinking water samples were collected from non-WAPA sources and three samples were collected from WAPA sources. DPNR resampled five facilities which had previously tested positive for coliform and had performed disinfection measures on their systems.
- EPA continues to coordinate drinking water sampling with DPNR. DPNR continues to notify the proprietors of the affected systems to ensure proper disinfection measures are taken.

#### St. Thomas and St. John

- On October 4<sup>th</sup>, nine drinking water samples were collected on St. Thomas and samples were taken to the Ocean Systems Lab for microbial analysis. EPA continues to coordinate drinking water sampling with DPNR.
- EPA met with WAPA personnel to discuss oil spill issues near a WAPA drinking water intake in Krum Bay, St. Thomas. The oil spill is originating from sunken and partially sunken vessels in Krum Bay. WAPA has boomed off the drinking water intake and collects samples of the drinking water supply on a regular basis. As of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, sample analysis has indicated the water system has not been impacted by the oil spill. EPA is meeting with the USCG to discuss further prevention and remediation strategies for the mitigation of the oil spill.

#### **Drinking Water / Wastewater (DW/WW) Assessments in PR**

- Response personnel were able to establish routes to provide water and other supplies to municipalities that had previously remained without supplies, such as Maricao, Las Marías, Utuado, Lares, Adjuntas, Jayuda, Ciales, Florida, Corozal, Barranquitas, Villalba, and Yauco, among others.
- In PR, seven DW laboratories are operational, one is under assessment, one has water damage, and six are unknown.
- PRASA facility assessments are ongoing and 12 EPA staff are participating in PRASA facility assessments.
- Out of PRASA's 51 facilities, 20 wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) are non-operational, 13 of which are upstream of a drinking water intake. These facilities represent a very high priority for assessment and repair. Most of the out-of-service WWTPs are not receiving any sewage due to collapsed trunk sewers or main pump stations with operational problems.
- Assessments are complete at around 70% of PRASA's 800 pump stations. As of October 6<sup>th</sup>, at least 250 sanitary pump stations are overflowing sewage due to lack of power, malfunctioning power generator or pumping problems. Of these 215 pump stations, 97 are located upstream of a water supply intake.
- PR's largest pump station, Torrecillas Pump Station, suffered major damages due to flooding.
- 31 WWTPs are working on alternate power.
- EPA and the PR Environmental Quality Board (EQB) plan to have physically assessed all of the island's WWTPs and pumping stations by October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- PRASA reported to CEPD that all hospitals are either connected to active DW service or are receiving water from water tanker trucks.
- There are 297 non-PRASA drinking water facilities that serve approximately 4% of the PR populations (PRASA systems service the other 96%).
  - As of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the teams had assessed 18 facilities.
  - On October 4<sup>th</sup>, EPA and PRDOH met to coordinate the deployment of Assessment Teams in the upcoming days. Details of proposed visit schedule was sent to EPA R2 PR Incident Coordinator.
- One assessment team conducted an assessment of the EQB laboratory to determine support actions and work required to bring it into service. In a meeting with the Secretary of DNER/President of EQB Tania Vazquez, information on potential EPA support for EQB Laboratory was requested. Laboratory needs include equipment and quality assurance systems. The EQB laboratory can provide support to PRASA and PRDOH laboratories that were destroyed by Hurricane Maria.
- On October 6<sup>th</sup>, EPA will meet with FEMA, USACE, and PRASA to discuss PRASA infrastructure emergency improvement needs.

#### **PR Air Monitoring Activities**

- The EQB plans to conduct an assessment on the conditions of the ambient air monitoring network. The network went offline prior to Hurricane Maria's landfall. There is no update or information on the status or damages. EQB will staff an assessment team once their employees are able to return.

#### **Debris Recovery** On PR

On October 4 , EPA met again with FEMA, USACE, EQB, the Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA), and private contractors to discuss and provide comments on a plan to establish six regional debris collection and processing centers. EQB approved a resolution to allow the disposal of construction debris and wet debris at nine specific landfills. USACE and contractors are requesting a waiver from EQB to use thermal reduction system (box burners) to be discussed at later meetings. Contractors presented proposed staging locations in PR and are requesting information from local and federal agencies to ensure environmental compliance.

- Municipalities report a large amount of clandestine dumps in their communities. They are concerned with public health and environmental impacts. These dumps continue to be reported on **October 6<sup>th</sup>**.

#### On USVI

- EPA continues to coordinate with FEMA, USACE and VIWMA on debris management. VIWMA has requested EPA assistance with the handling and transportation and disposal of household hazardous waste and the handling and/or preparation of electronics-waste and white goods for disposal. The scope of work of the debris management assistance request is being finalized and will be submitted to FEMA for addition on EPA's existing MA.
- **In St. Croix, an EPA OSC takes part in the daily Debris Management meetings. A collection area has been identified on St. Croix, which is located adjacent to the Limetree Facility. EPA will conduct air monitoring at the collection area for standard chemicals of concern associated with this type of activity. EPA will begin supporting and conducting these activities as soon as personnel and equipment are available on island.**
- **USACE has requested EPA assistance with air monitoring during the USACE's air curtain burning of vegetative debris activities. USACE intends to segregate construction and demolition (C&D) debris prior to burn operations. The C&D debris will be handled by VIWMA. Burn activities are anticipated to commence in late October.**

#### Orphan Container and Pollution Response

- As of October 6<sup>th</sup>, two hazard evaluations are open on USVI with none closed. No hazard evaluations have yet occurred on PR.
- No orphan containers are yet reported for USVI or PR.

#### Region 4 Significant Activities

**Due to the new reporting schedule, this section will not be updated again until Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.**

#### Orphan Container and Pollution Response in FL

- As of October 6<sup>th</sup>, the EPA Container Recovery Group has recovered **198** items, including drums, oil containers, and propane tanks. These items are temporarily stored at the Florida Keys Marathon International Airport container staging area.
- EPA personnel integrated into Unified Command and continue land-based assessments in the inland zone of Monroe County. Areas assessed included Marathon, Islamorada, Boca Chica, and Pine Keys, and the Naval Air Station Key West.

EPA Container Assessment Targets (Identified to Date—Florida Keys)			
USCG Sector	Targets Identified/Assessed	Targets Completed*	Targets Remaining
Key West	<b>149</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>86</b>
*Removed or determined no further action necessary			

#### Drinking Water / Wastewater (DW/WW) Assessments in FL

- As of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the USACE and the Region 4 Water Protection Division completed their ESF-3 water infrastructure assessment mission, with a total of 2,227 drinking water and wastewater facility assessments conducted. **Field and remote assessment activities have been completed, and EPA has completed all ESF-3 assignments. Pending any changes in water sector activities, the REOC has suspended ESF-3 reporting in situation reports.**

#### Debris Recovery in FL

- Two Landfill Technical Specialists from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Division mobilized to the Keys on September 27<sup>th</sup>. **A third specialist joined the team on October 5<sup>th</sup>.**
- **The FDEP Marathon Branch staff and the LST developed a plan to monitor the DDMSs and drafted a DDMS field checklist. As of October 6<sup>th</sup>, they have assessed 21 DDMSs in the Keys. Common deficiencies noted during the DDMS site visits include missing site access controls and absence of personnel acting as spotters.**
- **The DDMS established at the CEMEX building materials facility in Tavernier has been declared an imminent health hazard by the Florida Department of Health due to the waste pile's proximity to several residences. As reported October 6<sup>th</sup>, FDEP asked Monroe County to move the debris pile away from the residences and transport the material to an approved solid waste disposal facility.**
- **As reported October 6<sup>th</sup>, the LST investigated a complaint of alleged improper management of chlorofluorocarbons associated with white goods at the Big Pine Key DDMS and determined there were management issues that were being corrected by the owner.**

#### EPA Headquarters Significant Activities

- The HQ EOC is activated to Level 1 in support of EPA Region 2 and Region 4 responses to Maria and Irma. The HQ EOC is coordinating on several levels with EPA R2, EPA R4, and other Federal agencies. The HQ EOC deployed personnel to the FEMA NRCC's ESF-10 desk. EPA Senior Management on the Policy Coordination Committee (PCC) developed and issued senior management objectives that form the basis of field strategy and tactics in response to Maria and Irma. **The HQ EOC will operate remotely through the designated After-Hours Watch Officer and a core team of OEM Managers in reach-back status for the weekend of October 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Personnel	AO	OAR	OARM	OCFO	OCSPP	OECA	OEI	OGC	OLEM	ORD	OW	PIO	ATSDR	Totals
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<b>Employees</b>	0	4	0	0	1	1	1	0	5	0	1	1	0	14
<b>Contractors</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	0	4	0	0	1	1	1	0	6	0	1	1	0	15

## Other EPA Activities

### OECA Civil/CID

- R2 expects to receive *force majeure* claims from a number of Puerto Rico government entities and utilities, and the Municipality of San Juan and Municipality of Arecibo for obligations under existing Clean Water Act consent decrees with EPA, as well as one from the PREPA for compliance with a 1999 Clean Air Act consent decree. EPA evaluates those claims as soon as they are received and takes appropriate action.
- Accumulation of Hazardous Waste On-site Waiver
  - On September 29<sup>th</sup>, R2 granted a 30-day extension of the 90-day limit on the accumulation of hazardous waste on-site to Johnson & Johnson and Lilly del Caribe Inc. in PR. The two companies are large quantity generators and have informed EPA that because of impacts from the hurricanes, it is currently not possible to make hazardous waste shipments out of PR. It is possible that similar requests will be received from other companies.
- No Action Assurances (NAA)
  - On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, EPA issued a No Action Assurance to Merck, Sharp & Dohme Corp. for the use of four emergency generators located at its Las Piedras, PR facility.
  - On September 27<sup>th</sup> Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) issued an amended NAA concerning the importation, sale, donation or distribution of mobile power generators in PR to increase the number of generators available for use during the recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Maria.
  - On September 27<sup>th</sup> OECA issued an NAA concerning the importation, sale, donation or distribution of mobile power generators in the USVI.
- Orders
  - On September 26<sup>th</sup>, EPA waived diesel fuel requirements to minimize and prevent disruptions in the supply of diesel fuel for mobile non-road generators and pumps used for emergency purposes in PR effective immediately through October 15th.
  - On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, R2 issued an emergency order to FEMA and DOD to provide drinking water treatment services on the USVI. The Order terminates on October 8<sup>th</sup>. EPA is in discussions with DoD and FEMA about replacing the order with a letter or, if appropriate, determining that the units are no longer needed. FEMA and DOD are working to deploy four treatment units to St. Croix.
  - OECA and the State of Florida determined that the final pending request for a fuel waiver extension for Reformulated Gasoline was not necessary because adequate supply is available. Pending any further fuel waiver requests, the REOC will suspend fuel waiver reporting in future situation reports.

### OCSPP

- On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, EPA HQ received an inquiry from FEMA and the White House Director of Medical Preparedness Policy regarding the possibility of accepting a donation of water purification tablets from the UN World Food Programme for immediate distribution and use in PR. As these tablets are unregistered antimicrobial pesticides under FIFRA, EPA Office of Pesticide Programs is working with the requestor to determine if an emergency public health exemption can be granted to this product and, if so, if that can be done on an expedited basis. OGC and OECA are aware of the request and offering assistance.

### Communications

- R2, R4, and HQ activities related to Irma and Maria response efforts are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/hurricane-irma> and [www.epa.gov/hurricane-maria](http://www.epa.gov/hurricane-maria), respectively.
- The Region 2 Public Affairs Director, PIO and Assistant PIOs continue to coordinate with CDC on messaging, particularly the messages on dangers of contaminated flood waters. Region 2 is coordinating closely internally with headquarters on messaging for the use of water purification tablets.
- Region 2 has three Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) assisting the assessment teams in Puerto Rico as of October 3<sup>rd</sup>. R2 is expecting up to eight additional bi-lingual CICs—11 total—to be called up for deployment to Puerto Rico. One CIC is deploying to the USVI on October 8<sup>th</sup> for a two-week deployment. To guide EPA's outreach efforts in Puerto Rico and the USVI, the Assistant PIO for Community Relations has formed a team to develop a Hurricane Maria Community Outreach Plan.
- Office of Public Affairs continues to issue daily Hurricane Maria news releases. The Hurricane Maria news releases are translated to Spanish, posted online, and distributed widely by the PIO.

### Congressional Inquiries

- Senior Leadership from EPA Regions 2, 4 and 6 have been requested to appear at a briefing for members and staff of the House Energy & Commerce Committee on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The purpose is "to articulate an assessment of the damage to air (RMP and NAAQS), drinking water, soil (including RCRA and CERCLA issues), progress made to remedy that damage, a plan to respond to such remaining damage, and any challenges to remediation." State officials from Texas and Florida have been invited (but there is no indication that PR or USVI officials have been invited).
- Staff from Congressman Brian Mast contacted EPA HQ to inquire whether EPA field personnel could meet with the Congressman this week to discuss Irma related water quality issues. HQ forwarded the request to the Regional Administrator's office. Originally scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>, this meeting is being rescheduled.
- As reported by R2's October 1<sup>st</sup> Management Report, EPA responded to a request that FEMA received from a Vermont Congressman for information on the safety and distribution of water from 4 cisterns on Vieques. EPA provided guidance from Centers for Disease Control and EPA on cistern disinfection and making drinking water safe following natural disaster.